

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: GENDER FOCUSED CAPACITY BUILDING IN CLEAN ENERGY**

### **A. Introduction**

1. The *Nepal Electricity Transmission Expansion and Supply Improvement Project* will improve reliability of energy supply in Nepal and strengthen the transmission infrastructure needed to promote Nepal's capacity for cross-border trade in power. It will provide support in three critical areas in the electricity supply industry which have experienced severe and long term under investment: (i) electricity transmission capacity expansion; (ii) strengthening of the distribution system in both eastern and western regions and along the Khimti-Kathmandu transmission line; and (iii) rehabilitation of selected small-hydro power plants.

2. Project interventions are designed to benefit the poor through increased economic opportunity, knowledge and rights. Furthermore, the project has been designed to classify as "Effective Gender Mainstreaming" (EGM) category and includes a Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Action Plan and integrated indicators and targets in the project DMF. The GESI Action Plan ensures that women are empowered through their participation and representation in a range of project and non-project specific activities. Activities range from partnering with local electricity user cooperatives (EUC) in project orientation and education-awareness, enhancement of livelihoods through skills training, small scale enterprise development, EA capacity building on gender equity, to gender based infrastructure development in project affected areas. The Technical Assistance complements the project and will support the implementation of GESI Action Plan activities related to improving the socio-economic status of women and marginalized groups in select project sites.

### **B. Issues**

3. According to an NEA study, the key challenges facing the NEA rural electrification program are related to rural poverty. The rural communities are unable to pay electricity bills, consumption rates are low and maintenance costs are high. Studies have also found that female-headed households and marginalized communities, such as the *Dalits*, are particularly affected by affordability constraints. The social conditions of women, poor and marginalized groups in selected project districts are highly variable and in general are comparatively lower than the national average. Deep rooted socio-cultural traditions, societal norms and values create and maintain the status quo. Fuel wood is the major source of cooking energy in project areas, with kerosene and biogas as secondary fuel sources. Other common sources of energy used in these areas include electricity, kerosene, solar, battery light, and wick lamps.

4. The loan project is expected to benefit women as a result of time saved due to the availability of electricity, providing greater opportunities for women to participate in more productive activities. Women as well as men will benefit from employment and income generation opportunities. Women often run small shops and tea stalls in the project areas. It is anticipated that the project's presence will increase traditional types of income generating opportunities for women during the construction phase. Activities include small food stalls and sales of local goods and products. These activities will primarily benefit women who are generally the main and often only family provider.

5. The new Energy Policy –the Power Development Plan, Three-Year Interim Plan Paper, 2007-2010- focuses on poverty alleviation, decentralized planning, capacity development, gender and vulnerable communities, with a focus on inclusive development by: (i) creating an

enabling environment for social inclusion; (ii) supporting participation of disadvantaged groups in policy and decision-making; (iii) developing special programs for disadvantaged groups; (iv) promoting positive discrimination or reservation measures in education and employment; (iv) protection of culture, language and knowledge; (vi) creating proportional representation in development; and (vii) making the country's economic framework socially-inclusive. The TA will contribute to supporting the implementation of government gender-responsive and socially-inclusive policies by improving the economic status of women and marginalized groups in the project areas through community development, increased access to energy resources and energy-based livelihoods.

## **C. Proposed Technical Assistance**

### **1. Impact and Outcomes**

6. The impact of the proposed TA will be improved socioeconomic status of women in the project areas and its outcome will be community-based development through enhanced access to energy-based livelihood opportunities, improved awareness on electricity usage and conservation.

### **2. Methodology and Activities**

7. The proposed TA will provide: (i) support for skills training for livelihood enhancement for women and marginalized groups living along the transmission lines (T/L); and (ii) gender-related public awareness package and related activities for communities along the T/L right-of-way and substation areas. The specific activities conducted under the TA, complementing the loan outputs, are:

### **8. Output A: Increased electricity transmission**

- (a) Energy-based livelihood training [target: 1,500 people] in income generating skills and activities (target: 80%: women and marginalized groups) and training targeting local communities in the Baliya VDC (Badi community), Thami community in Rameche VDC, Tamang community in Sundarijal VDC and along the Khimti-Kathmandu T/L [target: 500 people (100% women)] in a range of skills and expertise which include: TV, mobile phone repairs; household equipment repairs; local production and marketing (handicraft, pickle-making, jam-jelly, off-season vegetables);
- (b) Awareness raising package in communities along the T/L right-of-way and substation area [target: 1,500 people] about safety risks and hazards of T/L, social and health risks associated with infrastructure development (inc. STI/HIV), safe working conditions and practices, women's participation in project activities and efficient use of energy.

### **9. Output B: Increased electricity distribution capacity**

- (a) Needs assessment carried out to determine eligibility for rural-based community/household-level electrification;
- (b) Electricity access and assistance provided to 20% of new electrified households along the K-K line (target 30% women and marginalized groups) (baseline: 9,000)
- (c) Increased public awareness of newly electrified households (2,000) in: (i) safe and efficient use of electricity (incl. compact fluorescent lamps (CFL)); (ii) energy related livelihood opportunities; (iii) energy consumption patterns for household tasks.

## 10. Output C: Enhanced Electricity Generation

- (a) Training in public health activities in Tamang Village [target: 30% women participation];
- (b) Training on local product processing and marketing skills targeting local communities (20 HHs) in the Sundarijal Village Development Committee (9 wards).

### 3. Cost and Financing

11. The Government has requested ADB to finance \$250,000 equivalent. The TA will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF-IV) in the amount of The Government will provide counterpart support in the form of counterpart staff, and office supplies.

**Table 1: Cost Estimates and Financing Plan (\$'000)**

Item	Total Cost
<b>ADB Financing<sup>a</sup></b>	
1. Domestic Consultants	<b>120.0</b>
a. Remuneration and Per Diem	78.0
i. NGO Grant Management Services <sup>1</sup>	36 person-months 18.0
ii. Team Leader (National) <sup>2</sup>	24 person months 30.0
iii. BDS Training Specialist (National) <sup>3</sup>	24 person months 30.0
b. Local Travel	36.0
c. Reports and Communications	6.0
2. Survey (needs assessment)s	<b>10.0</b>
3. Livelihoods and Training Expenditure <sup>4</sup>	<b>100.0</b>
4. Awareness raising package/modules <sup>5</sup>	<b>10.0</b>
5. Contingencies	<b>10.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>250.0</b>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, NGO = nongovernment organization

<sup>a</sup> Financed by the ADB Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF –Others)

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates

<sup>1</sup> For 36 months at \$500/month allocation for all costs associated with the administration and implementation of TA activities (items 2-4), with the exclusion of local travel and communication costs.

<sup>2</sup> For 24 person-months at \$1,500/month.

<sup>3</sup> For 24 person-months at \$1,500/month.

<sup>4</sup> Livelihoods and skills training activities include those identified in the proposal under Outputs A – C. Training costs include training materials, food and beverages, payments for training facilities such as space and equipments, travel cost and/or per diems of participants.

<sup>5</sup> Awareness raising activities are those designed to support TA related outputs as identified in Section C herein.

#### 4. Implementation Arrangements

12. The TA will be implemented over a period of 36 months starting in 2012, with completion targeted in 2015. The Executing Agency will be the NEA. The subproject will be administered through the ADB Nepal Resident Mission and –more specifically–the ADB (loan) project Officer, and Senior Social Development and Gender Officer, in partnership with SAEN.

13. An NGO will be recruited to support TA implementation. A national NGO will be engaged as a firm to undertake the consulting services under this project, in accordance with ADB *Guidelines on the Use of Consultants* (2010, as amended from time to time), and the selection will be in accordance with the ADB quality- and cost-based selection method using a quality–cost ratio of 80:20. Simplified technical proposals will be required from the short-listed NGOs. Government of Nepal's consent for the recruitment of the national NGO will be sought on no-objection basis. Disbursements will be made in accordance with ADB's Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (May 2010 as amended).

#### 5. Terms of Reference

14. A national NGO with gender and business service provision expertise will be recruited for the implementation of the TA. Exposure to energy sector related gender activities will be an added qualification for the NGO. The NGO should have a strong presence in the project areas and have more than 10 years of experience working with local communities on women's empowerment and livelihood programs. The implementation team of the national organization will consist of: (i) Team Leader/Training Coordinator (national, 24 person-months); and (ii) Micro-finance business development services training specialist (national, 24 person months).

##### a. Team Leader/Training Coordinator (National, 24 person-months)

15. The Team Leader should have a postgraduate degree, with experience in provision of training for women entrepreneurs. Experience in gender related developmental activities in energy sector projects will be an added qualification. The Team Leader should be familiar with the energy sector in India and issues related to development of women-headed enterprises when regular 24 hour power supply is provided to the rural households. She/he should have consulted for international and national organizations or NGOs supporting GAD work in the energy sector and be familiar with ADB's policies and strategies on poverty and social analysis, GAD, the energy sector and the business and project cycles. She/he will have overall responsibility for all the four tasks and the substantive direction of the Grant project, the research/surveys and implementation of the direct intervention on capacity building, and relevant outputs summarizing the findings, recommendations and lessons learned from the project. More specifically, she/he will be responsible for:

- (i) overall guidance in the finalization of: (a) designing and carrying out needs assessment survey, (b) reviewing the survey reports, and developing the training modules for: i) gender-sensitive user awareness/energy conservation; ii) training for women's business development service provision; and iii) training women micro-entrepreneurs; (c) conducting the three different types of training programs for women;
- (ii) organizing the inception consultation workshop to discuss the project and the methodologies to be followed in the research and implementation of the direct interventions;

- (iii) organizing the national workshops as knowledge sharing activities to present findings, lessons learned and any follow-up activities;
- (iv) visiting the Project area to consult and liaise with Government agencies, local VDCs selected for project implementation, ADB project staff and other stakeholders;
- (v) overall support for the implementation of the Project;
- (vi) coordinate the activities of the Project with relevant Government agencies, development partners, and the ADB;
- (vii) management of the Grant funds allocated to the Project;
- (viii) Developing a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system in PMU to track the project performances and social/gender-related results;
- (ix) Examine the feasibility of employing women as meter readers and incorporate necessary training and capacity building aspects to the relevant training programs;
- (x) Produce the following outputs: an inception report and a detailed work plan, within 6 weeks of project commencement; needs assessment report and training modules within 6 months of project commencement; semi-annual progress reports; the PPMS template; project completion report including the good practices and lessons which can be scaled-up in ADB operations in the energy sector.

**b. Women Business Development Services Training Specialist (National, 24 person-months)**

16. Women Business Need Services Training specialist should have a post-graduate degree, preferably in applied social sciences, significant prior experience with survey research and other social science research tools and methodologies. She/he should have experience in gender and business development work in South Asia. More specifically, she/he will be responsible for:

- (i) Undertaking a needs assessment of women entrepreneurs under the guidance of the Team Leader;
- (ii) Carrying out a needs assessment– through surveys and focus group discussions to identify: specific groups of enterprises, existing constraints to their development; new opportunities related to improved electricity access;
- (iii) Identifying training needs and help the Team Leader in the preparation of different training modules incorporating the findings of the needs assessment.
- (iv) Preparing the training materials for the above and conduct the training;
- (v) Preparing a report including the good practices and lessons learned from the training programs.